

WRITTEN BY RYAN HEISE
PHOTOS BY RYAN SHIPPELT AND MIKE OTTO

Cougars give ice Pandas practice winning

Alberta hockey squad faced moments of difficulty against Regina on Saturday, but they kept going and earned a meaningful victory

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The Pandas may have swept the Regina Cougars this weekend, but they're considering Saturday's game a welcome taste of adversity overcome. Alberta (15-2-1) beat the Cougars (9-7-2) 4-2 on that night, but the win was hard-fought.

Unlike the relative cakewalk of Friday's 7-2 victory, when Alberta already had a comfortable five-goal lead by the time Regina first put the puck in the net, scoring went back and forth on Saturday.

The Cougars twice neutralized the Panda lead, but Alberta tried not to let it get to them.

"Tying it up is always hard to swallow, but we didn't get down on the bench, that's for sure," second-year Alberta forward Leah Copeland said. She put in two on Friday and the second Pandas goal the next night.

Nonetheless, each time the U of A recaptured the lead, it brought a feeling of relief to their bench.

"The game could have gone either way, it seemed at times," Pandas head coach Howie Draper said. "Despite the fact that I think we carried the majority of the play, it seemed like every time we got into our end, anything could have happened. It was nice to get that go-ahead goal."

As much as Draper was pleased with the weekend's results, he still saw room for his team to improve and considered Saturday's tighter game somewhat of a blessing in disguise. For the most part this season, the Pandas have been able to win handily, so they haven't had too many chances to see how they deal



ANDREW RURAK

MADAMA BUTTERFLY Katie Borbely's shot didn't go in on Friday, but the Pandas still came up with a big 7-2 victory. Saturday's game was tougher, but they won it.

with hardship on the ice.

"It was good that we had the opportunity to have a close game because we got away from our systems a little bit when the game was a bit tighter," he said. "We got a little nervous; we lost our focus. So it's good that we had that opportunity, so we know now that to continue to maintain our momentum, we have to stick to the systems.

"When we get up a few goals, then

the game's easy. But when you're only up one goal, and it's tight, and then they tie it up, then the game's a lot tougher to play."

Draper gave the Cougars the credit for making the Pandas work harder the second night.

"I think they picked it up, and I don't know that we necessarily responded as well as we could have," he said. "Kudos to them to come back and get

that goal and make it a game."

Regina coach Sarah Howald tried to take what good she could from the weekend's two losses.

"I wasn't happy with their effort yesterday, but I think we came back and played a much better game today. But I think if we could have done that for six periods instead of three, the game yesterday would have been closer, at least," she said. "We would have liked

to have gotten a win, but at least we got a better effort today."

Copeland noticed the Cougars' added drive the second night as well.

"I would say that they came out [looking] for vengeance," she said. "Nobody wants to get beat 7-2, so everybody would want to come back out hard, especially to get that two points that so critical within our conference to stay in the standings."



LEADER OF THE PACK, VROOM VROOM The U of A hosted a fun meet this weekend, as a useful warm-up for the bigger Golden Bear Open coming up.

NCAA Division II clears way for Canadian member schools

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The face of university athletic competition in Canada could soon look very different, as schools from the NCAA in the US voted Monday to allow Canadian schools to apply for membership.

The impetus for the vote, which was held at the NCAA's annual national convention in Nashville, Tennessee, came mainly from UBC. The coastal school has been vocal about its desire to leave CIS competition in favour of an American conference for several years, and with this decision, they will finally be able to submit a formal application. It's expected that UBC will apply for inclusion in Division II competition by the next deadline, 1 June of this year.

"We have a deadline, but we've got a lot of questions to get answered before then," UBC interim communications coordinator Don Wells said. "It doesn't mean anything in the immediate future, but it does mean that if we are going to proceed with an official application, the door is now open to do so."

The main reason that Canadian schools like UBC have been express-

ing interest in NCAA membership is because of the differences in scholarship rules between CIS and the US organization. The NCAA allows schools to give out so-called "full-ride" scholarships—tuition, fees, room and board, and books—while CIS schools are only allowed to pay for tuition and fees at the most. That discrepancy in funding—as well as the opportunity for wider competition south of the border—means that many of Canada's top athletes leave the country for school.

"UBC has long stated that its rationale in seeking NCAA membership is to give Canadian student athletes the choice to remain in Canada," Wells said. "We're concerned with the number of student athletes that leave Canada, that take scholarship opportunities at US schools. We're trying to provide them with the same opportunities that await them at US schools by giving them the same level of support here in Canada."

Though the University of Alberta has never expressed an official position on whether they would join the NCAA, Athletic Director Dale Schulha has publicly stated before that he thinks it's an opportunity worth considering.

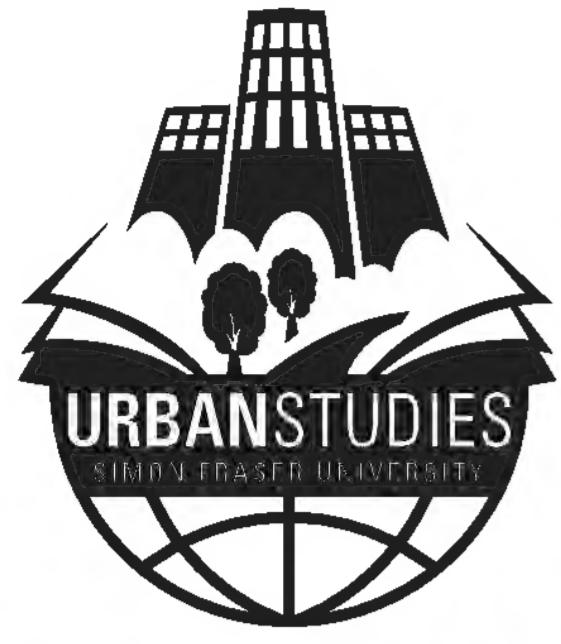
"I think we should look at the facts

and figures and try to get as much information as we can and move it through to see if the University has any appetite to pursue it," he said. "With the tremendous time commitment that our student-athletes have, academically and athletically, it's very difficult for them [financially]. We lose some top recruits on an annual basis to the States, as do a lot of Canadian institutions, because of that factor."

There are some obvious downsides to schools like UBC and the U of A—two of the biggest and most dominant in the country—leaving CIS, both for the schools that join the NCAA and the ones they leave behind.

"From a negative standpoint, I think if we went that route, we would be hurting the CIS," Schulha said. "[And] if we were to consider this, there would be financial implications. For us to be able to even consider this, we would have to be able to generate funds through our alumni, through the corporate sector, and through supporters in the community."

"But I think that's definitely a possibility because I think people would see us as more marketable if we were competing in certain NCAA sports."




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PETE EYEE

SIX POINTS OF SUPERIORITY Though this match didn't go the Bears' way, the team had good overall results on Friday.

Varsity meet results bode well for young Alberta wrestlers

Inexperienced Bears and Pandas still need more matches to reach their peak

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

Alberta's young wrestlers took another step towards developing into a force to be reckoned with this Friday, as seven of the U of A's athletes made it to the top three in their events at the Golden Bear Varsity Invitational.

The Bears and Pandas hosted some of their biggest competition this weekend with Friday's varsity events and Saturday's open tournament, and earned a few medals for their trouble. But according to the team, the most important thing the Bears and Pandas garnered from the weekend was experience.

"The point of these tournaments is to get matches in and to figure out what you're doing wrong," first-year Panda Marielle TerHart said. "I'd rather make mistakes and lose a match now but learn and fix those mistakes I'm making, and then win when it matters."

"These tournaments are invaluable," fourth-year Bear Mike Hulbert agreed. "They teach everybody to develop their skills in competition before CIS and Canada West so we know what to work on and train for."

The Pandas squad is mostly made up of wrestlers like TerHart, who are getting their first taste of CIS competition this season—part of the team's goal this year is just getting those athletes up to that level of competition. Alberta

head coach Vang Ioannides acknowledged the team's deficiencies, but added that this weekend showed both the Pandas' and Bears' potential.

"I think there's still lots of room for improvement, and it's going to be a challenge. I hope they're up to it," he said.

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VANG IOANNIDES
ALBERTA HEAD COACH

"If they are, and if they continue to progress the way they've progressed to this point in the season, I think we're going to see some good things at the end of the season."

On the Pandas' side, Ioannides was particularly pleased with the results that second-year Jenna Yamashita produced, which included two wins against Pam Ewanishin—a junior national team member from Saskatchewan whom she had never beaten—as well as a silver medal in the 51kg weight class on Friday night.

"They were really solid performances from Jenna, and she's really come a long way in the short year and

a half that she's wrestled," Ioannides said. "I'm pretty excited for her."

"I feel like I've improved a lot since the beginning of the season," Yamashita said of her performance. "It's really a stepping-stone tournament because the end goal is really Canada West."

Beating Ewanishin, she said, "is something that builds confidence because that is how you know you're getting better, you know you're making progress, and that the training has gone to something."

It was also a good weekend for the Bears, who boast a slightly more veteran roster than the Pandas. Hulbert, Mike Asselstine, and Saksham Mengi each finished second in their events on Friday, and Bram Ratay, Colin Stewart, and Ben Marois earned third place in theirs that night.

"I think we've come a long way in terms of our will to attack," Ioannides said. "We seemed to really go for it this weekend, which was good to see because in the first part of the year, I think the problem was people were just standing there allowing people to come to them. Usually, that just leads you to hope that they make a mistake—and if they don't, they're going to beat you."

"So instead, we went out there and made them make the mistakes, and so I was pretty happy with the performance of the team."

behind with 22 points each. Saturday, Neb Aleksic's 17 points led the team.

More like Wes-Ladies

The Pandas basketball team (11-3) also put up two wins on the road. In Winnipeg on Friday night, they beat the Wesmen (6-8) 64-51. Guard Ashley Wigg led the game in points with 17. On Saturday the Pandas played the Manitoba Bisons (5-9) across town and won 77-63, with Katie Barrett at the top of the Pandas board with 14 points.

Head-Smashed-In Bears jumpers

The basketball Bears (9-5) were the only Alberta team that didn't sweep this weekend. Though they beat the Wesmen (7-7) 95-91 on Friday, they surprisingly weren't able to over come the Bisons (3-11) and lost 88-81 on Saturday. On Friday, Alex Steele led the Bears with 24 points, with Richard Bates and Andrew Parker right

In Winnipeg as well, the Pandas volleyball team (9-3) won 3-0 on Friday and 3-1 Saturday against the Wesmen (2-12), who are second-last in Canada West. Panda Samantha Wojtkiw led in kills Friday with 14, and Jocelyn Blair had 19 on Saturday night.

The Thin Man

My undies today are polka-dotted, which is a pattern I wish we saw more of nowadays. I saw a really nice polka-dotted dress in a black and white movie the other day, and it was great.

I also want to wish Superfan Robert a happy belated birthday.

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SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

Weather similes are funny, right?

It was a great weekend for U of A sports teams. First, the Bears hockey squad (15-2-1) lit it up in Lethbridge, melting the Pronghorns' defenses like a chinook. They beat the last-in-the-conference Pronghorns (4-14-0) 3-1 on Friday night and 5-1 on Saturday.

Derek Ryan, Dylan Stanley, and Richard Hamula each put goals on the board the first night, while Saturday saw two goals each from Ben Kilgour and Chad Klassen, rounded out with one from Ian McDonald.

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CFL light on CIS quarterbacks

BEN MYERS
The *Fulcrum* (University of Ottawa)

OTTAWA (CUP)—Ever heard of Tommy Denison? Besides those familiar with the Queen's Golden Gaels' recent football history, not many have.

Denison was the last CIS quarterback to play in a CFL game—in June 2004. As a two-time Hec Crighton award winner as CIS MVP, Denison could be considered one of the best quarterbacks in the past ten years of Canadian university football. Sadly, he barely got a chance in the CFL.

Less than a week after playing his first game, Denison was cut from the Winnipeg Blue Bombers roster when they added future star quarterback Kevin Glenn, a product of Illinois State University. Since then, many CIS players have found success in the CFL—such as Ottawa Gee-Gees wide receiver Adam Nicolson, who completed a successful season with the BC Lions in 2007, and former Western Mustangs slotback Andy Fantuz. As a member of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Fantuz recently faced Glenn's Bombers in the Grey Cup.

But this year in the CFL, not a single starting quarterback hailed from Canada's university system.

Three-time Grey Cup champion and McMaster University graduate Russ Jackson believes it's a matter of flexibility, understanding, and opportunity for Canadians to succeed.

"I think kids coming out of college today ... don't have the versatility that I was lucky enough to have," he said. "I played defensive back and quarterback when I was at McMaster University, and therefore I could make a professional team at another position other than quarterback."

Indeed, Jackson was drafted first overall in 1958 by Ottawa as a slotback, and got to play quarterback only because of a couple "big breaks" when Ottawa's other quarterbacks were injured.

"One of them broke his arm; the other broke his leg," Jackson said. "I was the only show in town. I got the



FILE PHOTO: CHRISTINE BROWNE-MUNZ

HOT POTATO CIS quarterbacks have had a tough time getting into CFL lineups.

chance [...] and won a few games, and all of a sudden, I got noticed. But if those injuries hadn't happened, who knows whether Russ Jackson ever would have gotten discovered?"

Noting that quarterbacks are trained for their positions throughout their football careers, Jackson thinks that some variety would benefit Canadians looking to become professional players.

"[Quarterbacks today] don't have another skill to offer or another position to offer, and I just think that overall [...] the kids coming out of American colleges at that position are better trained and have more knowledge of the position than a Canadian [quarterback]."

Doug Falconer, a member of the 1975 Vanier Cup-champion Ottawa Gee-Gees and 1976 Grey Cup-champion Ottawa Rough Riders, thinks that CFL clubs hardly give CIS quarterbacks a chance.

According to Falconer, CFL teams are more comfortable selecting quarterbacks from the US and using their Canadian college draft picks on positions where Canadians have already

had success.

"Because of the stigma that goes with the CFL, and the preference that they have towards drafting Canadians at specific positions, a quarterback is never really given the opportunity," Falconer said.

"The problem is being [drafted]—[CFL teams] don't go into the draft thinking that they're going to be looking at quarterbacks Even when they draft a quarterback, they ask, 'How good is this athlete, and can we use him somewhere else?'

"I think [CFL teams] say to themselves, 'If he's such a great quarterback, why didn't he get a scholarship, and why isn't he playing [NCAA] Division I?'"

As 2007 football squads take their training inside for the winter, the thought of a CFL career is likely weighing on the minds of more than a few players. Like Denison, they will have to struggle to make a career of their university passion.

All things considered, it may come down to a couple of breaks and a CFL team taking a leap of faith.

No Olympic glory for male synchro-er

KIMBERLEY BRUCE
The *Martlet* (University of Victoria)

VICTORIA (CUP)—Bill May could have been an Olympian if he hadn't been born a man.

The American synchronized swimming champion visited Victoria last month to share his experience and coaching talent with the Victoria Pacific Sport Synchro Club at Commonwealth Pool.

But what May can't share is the experience of competing in the Olympics. That's because the sport he loves and in which he excels has been categorized as women's only and will remain a women's only sport in Beijing and for the foreseeable future.

Throughout his career, May was made the punchline of jokes. He was haunted by an episode of Saturday Night Live, where Martin Short made fun of the idea of a male synchronized swimmer. But May just focused on his sport, ignoring the opinions of others.

He became the first professional male synchronized swimmer to win a US Championship in 1998, winning with a solo interpretation of Gene Kelly's dance number from "Singing in the Rain."

"There was more finesse in that

routine for me than just going out and pounding the water," May said. "There were subtle nuances to [Kelly's] dancing that we tried to bring into the water."

The win thrust him into a controversy over how the young sport of synchronized swimming should develop. Some competitors complain that men have an unfair advantage competing against women because men have more upper body strength, allowing them to do higher lifts and propel themselves further out of the water.

For him, it's a matter of the sport's potential to grow and become more artistic with a mix of male and female competitors. May worked with duet partner Kristina Lum, with whom he had hoped to go to the Olympics to explore the boundaries of the sport.

"I think I bring an added sense of power to the sport, and when I'm swimming with my duet partner, there's sensuality to the sport that you can't have between two women."

May continued to train, compete, and win until he was barred from competing in the 2004 Olympics. But instead of giving up, he joined the US team as a coach.

Since then, May has focused on passing on his knowledge and experience. He has helped train up-and-coming

male synchronized swimmers with the Santa Clara Aquamaidens, the group where he started his own career.

In addition, May now performs with O, a Cirque du Soleil water show in Las Vegas. He says he wears more makeup now than he ever did in competition.

Despite the hurdles, May is still passionate about the sport he's excelled at since he was a ten-year-old practicing with his sister at the local pool. He maintains that he stayed in synchronized swimming because it was fun, not to become a pioneer. Still, May is proud to have helped break down barriers for other men who want to participate.

"I feel like I've done things that they can look forward to so that they know there are competitions that they can go to, and someone is fighting for them and will stand behind them wherever they want to go," he said. "Hopefully they'll continue to fight, and more men will be inspired to join the sport."

In Victoria, May was happily surprised to find a ten-year-old boy registered in one of his workshops.

"I think it's great seeing young guys in the sport," he said. "The more men who get into the sport will push to get doors opened up."

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I'm Not There keeps Dylan shrouded

Watching multiple actors play Bob Dylan is frustrating, but ultimately rewarding

filmreview

I'm Not There

Directed by Todd Haynes
Starring Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, and Ben Whishaw
Garneau Theatre

EDMON ROTEA
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The current trend in the mainstream film industry today is to produce biographical pictures of legendary, recently deceased music artists—the Ray Charles biopic *Ray*, Johnny Cash's *Walk the Line*, and director Gus Van Sant's Kurt Cobain-inspired *Last Days* come to mind. Director Todd Hayne's latest feature, *I'm Not There*—which, according to the film's opening credits, is “inspired by the many lives of Bob Dylan”—breaks this trend by portraying the life of the living legend through six different actors of varying age, gender, and even ethnicity.

Like a kaleidoscopic dream, *I'm Not There* can be best described as a loose portrayal of Dylan's life at varying stages of his career, spanning the '50s, '60s, and '70s. With its chopped-up narrative, the film is perhaps as fractured and complex as Dylan's personal and professional life. Marcus Carl Franklin portrays Dylan as a rail-hopping African-American youth, escaping his turbulent past while entertaining and befriending hobos and good samaritans throughout his journey of

discovery in the late 1950s.

Fast forward to the early '60s, where Dylan is depicted as the character Arthur Rimbaud (portrayed by actor Ben Whishaw), a young man in his early 20s being interviewed by government officials about his true identity. The Arthur Rimbaud scenes, filmed entirely in black and white film, are scattered throughout the movie, conveying Dylan's changing persona and musical styles. Such chameleon-like changes include Dylan's emergence on the early '60s Greenwich music scene as singer Jack Rollins (Christian Bale), singing clean, innocent-sounding folk music tunes while making gains as a film and television star.

With its chopped-up narrative, *I'm Not There* is perhaps as fractured and complex as Dylan's personal and professional life.

With the turbulent social and political events of the '70s, the film focuses on the life of Robbie Clark (Heath Ledger), a character on the verge of divorce and radical change. Once these adjustments occur, the next stage of Dylan's life is marked by Cate Blanchett's convincing portrayal of Dylan as a mainstream rock star who parties with the likes of The Beatles and drunkenly insults fashion models while passing out on alcohol and illegal substances—a literal and

metaphorical breakdown of the artist during the late '60s. Fortunately, Dylan's revival is represented by Richard Gere's portrayal of an older Dylan—a reclusive man, living in a rural, forested area near a town littered by exotic circus performers and frontier-era townsfolk; a depiction of Dylan's later life as a singer returning to his original country music roots.

Each actor's variation of Dylan provides a convincing portrayal and a unique perspective of the musician's life, especially with the film's many subplots, historical events, and narratives. All of these are presented in an asynchronous, non-chronological order, interspersed with documentary-style interview, historical archival news footage, and dream-like sequences. This non-chronological style may prove confusing or difficult for some viewers to grasp, especially with the film constantly jumping back and forth throughout the timeline of Dylan's life.

However, the real star of *I'm Not There* is the music. The film's soundtrack is comprised of over two dozen songs written or performed by Bob Dylan, along with covers by Iggy Pop, Sonic Youth, Ritchie Havens, and other contemporary artists and bands—a soundtrack that is perhaps more comprehensive than any of Dylan's Greatest Hits albums.

I'm Not There is another coming-of-age type film, richly infused and illustrated with music, where the journey throughout Dylan's life is more entertaining and important than the final destination and the film's ending.



The Mighty Carlins offers dark, hilarious take on family and alcohol

theatrerreview

The Mighty Carlins

Runs until 20 January
Directed by Michael Clark
Written by Collin Doyle
Starring John Wright, Frederick Zbryski, and James Hamilton

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

The word *fuck* can be quite versatile, no matter how it's used. In the case of *The Mighty Carlins*, the expletive certainly receives more than its share of stage time over the course of the funny and insightful play that examines serious issues such as family dysfunction, alcoholism, mental illness, and suicide.

The Mighty Carlins depicts old curmudgeon Leo Carlin (John Wright) and his two adult sons, Mike (Frederick Zbryski) and Davey (James Hamilton), who have a reunion and a “sharing circle” once a year on the anniversary of the boys' mother's death. Fuelled by large amounts of alcohol, the event frequently degenerates into accusations and shouting matches, along with the occasional body part ending up between someone else's teeth.

The actors portraying the three men use this performance to show why they've earned the reputation of being three of Edmonton's finest performers. John Wright as Leo Carlin creates a cross between Jack Lemmon in *Grumpy Old Men* and Archie Bunker from *All in the Family*. He's gruff, crass, racist, and applies just the right

amount of cantankerousness when delivering some lines while adding a touch of gentleness when necessary. Evoking sympathy for the alcoholic Leo isn't an easy task, yet Wright is able to incorporate enough nuanced sensitivity into Leo's swearing and insults to do just this.

Zbryski and Hamilton are also perfectly cast as sons Mike and Davey. Zbryski matches Wright's strength and stage presence, while Hamilton brilliantly counterpoints the two rougher characters with the more fragile and sensitive Davey. Together, the trio depict a dysfunctional family that has been, and continues to be, ravaged by alcoholic hopelessness.

As we learn more details about Leo's relationship with his wife, we see many of the same patterns taking hold in Davey as he relates tales of his own relationship with his girlfriend. *The Mighty Carlins* portrays a potent message about dysfunctional patterns of behaviour and how they manifest themselves from one generation to another—a message that might have been lost had it not been carried out by such a strong trio of actors.

Due to the difficult topics explored in this play, the group expends enormous amounts of energy conveying one emotion after another. At times, Wright's and Zbryski's faces actually turn red as they accuse each other of terrible things while cursing and gesturing wildly. Given the moderately sized set, the men don't overpower the space, instead using it to their advantage to portray the limited and broken world of alcoholism in which they all live. Furthermore, the actors never run out of steam, maintaining their energy levels and level of emotions for the entire piece.



Tackling such difficult topics can't be easy, but the script infuses enough humour and lighter moments to keep the audience's interest and to help create more human characters. The humour is dark and the one-liners sharp, supported by the actors' wonderful comic timing.

While the use of the word *fuck* borders on gratuitous at times, it also perfectly keeps with the theme of the play: the script's crass

language and conversational topics, along with the run-down appearance of Leo's kitchen, outwardly reflect the brokenness of the characters' lives.

This fantastic production of *The Mighty Carlins* allows the audience to feel compassion and sympathy for this trio of highly flawed characters. And that's pretty fucking amazing.



Emergenza lets bands rock their first steps

The 15-year-old continent-hopping festival beckons untapped local acts

musicpreview

Emergenza Music Festival

Thursday, 17-20 January, 8pm
The Pawn Shop

ELLIO GOODINE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"You have to be aware that no one thing is going to make you successful overnight," admits singer-guitarist Sall Gibson from the indie pop-rock band Failing Esther. "But at the same time, these sorts of events allow you to play with a whole other bunch of musicians you'd never have the chance to play with. You get to develop relationships and meet other bands. Even if you don't make it to the top, you're making connections with people within the festival."

The particular festival Gibson has in mind is the Emergenza Music Festival, a four-night competition among independent bands at The Pawn Shop. Emergenza itself was founded 15 years ago in Europe, created expressly to showcase unsigned and undiscovered musical acts.

The bands that make it through the preliminary round will then go on to regional, national, and ultimately

an international final in Germany. But there's no panel of judges in the initial stages; to advance past the preliminaries, the audience will choose the winning band at the end of the night by a show of hands.

"I would like to see the audience choose whoever is honestly the best band to be chosen," Gibson hopes. "Everyone has their own musical taste [...], so at least this way, you've got a larger number of people voting."

Keith Madsen, bassist/vocalist for alt-rock trio Acronycal, agrees that the audience choice is a fair method of picking a winner in these early stages. He's also fairly confident in his untested band's ability to wow a roomful of strangers.

"I think we hold down our songs good enough, and we can stand behind our tunes," he says. "People should be able to judge us upon that."

The winners in later rounds are to be chosen by a panel of judges, which doesn't bother the band, either—really, they're excited to be playing in front of a roomful of people. The Emergenza festival will be Acronycal's first show after recruiting their drummer Jayme Wenzel four months ago.

"If we wanted to put on our own

show together, we'd have to rent and that would cost us even more [than our registration fee]," guitarist Scott Lehman admits.

Both Failing Esther and Acronycal are new bands, and to them, the festival is an important way to get their start in the Edmonton music scene. Acronycal are completely green, while Failing Esther played their first show last weekend.

"I'm really looking forward to the professional sound [provided by Emergenza] and to see what our potential is live," Wenzel says. The drummer also joked about their first-show nerves, saying, "Our first few songs will be a little faster than they should be."

Both bands admit that the Emergenza festival is only part of the strategy to find success as new artists, noting that Internet promotion, touring, and intense rehearsal are all going to be necessary for achieving their long-term goals as respectable artists in town. According to Acronycal, finding success is about "working your ass off."

"We're going to be doing the battle of the bands; we're going to be doing the on-the-road thing, whatever," Lehman says. "We're going to put our feet down wherever we can."



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g a t e w a y s t u d e n t j o u r n a l i s m s o c i e t y

The Gateway Student Journalism Society is seeking one student-at-large member for its board of directors effective immediately. Applicants should be undergraduate students who are not members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, the University Board of Governors, or the University Senate.

The Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors meets approximately once per month and is responsible for the overall direction of the society, but not for any element of the editorial content of the Gateway.

Applicants should be sent to Adam Gaumont, the Gateway Editor-in-Chief, at eic@gateway.ualberta.ca on or before January 24.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Board of Directors at gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca or visit <http://www.gateway.ualberta.ca/gsjs/>

Even Henri Cartier-Bresson was a total newb once.

And Philippe Halsman.

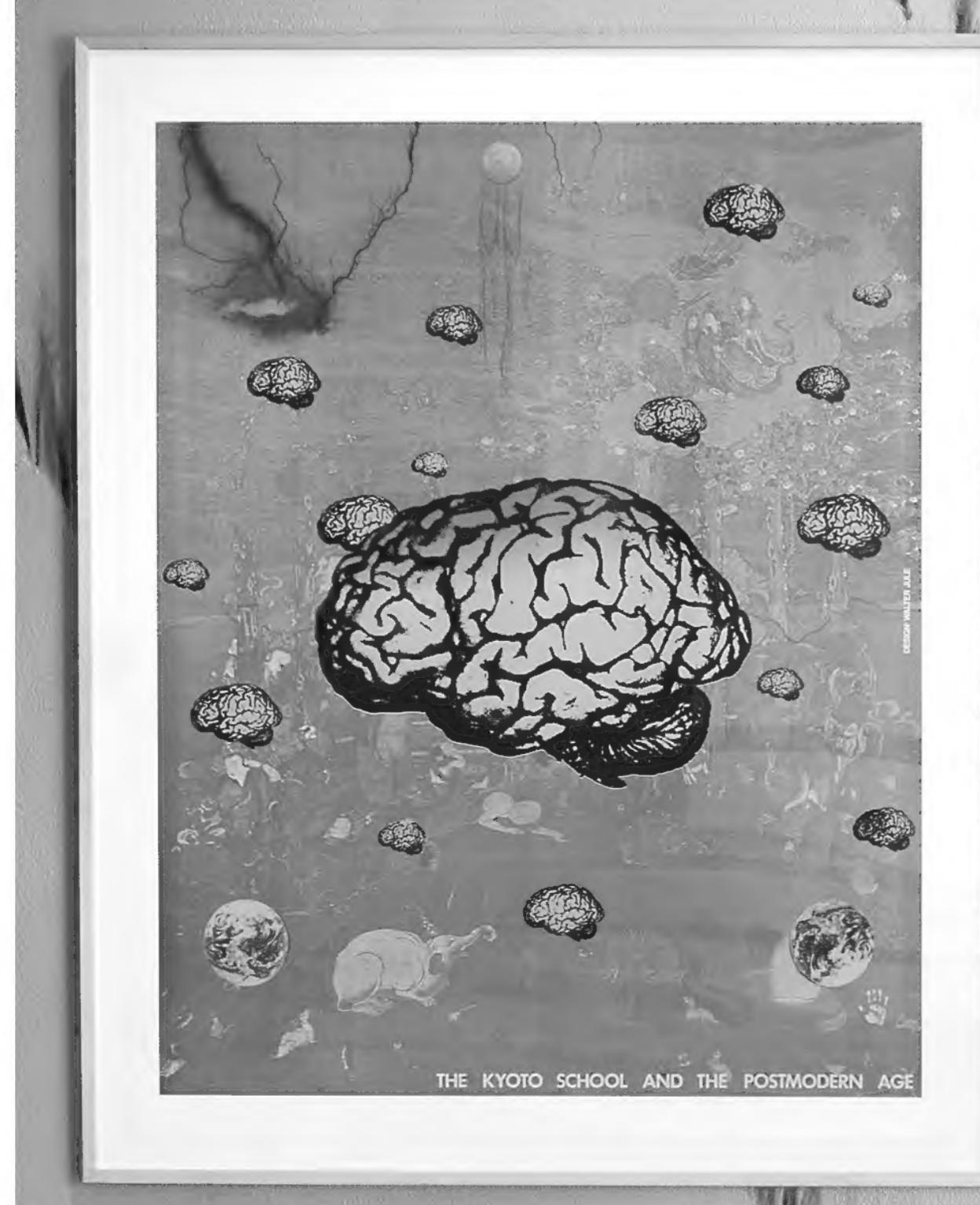
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MIKE OTTO

Hockey Stories gives glimpse into our NHL culture

Actor Steve Pirot opens up about lazy storytelling, his show's lack of puppets, and how much he hates the Maple Leafs

theatre preview

Hockey Stories For Boys

Runs 17-27 January
Written by George Szilagyi
Starring Steve Pirot, Murray Utas, and KS Callihoo
Roxy Theatre (10708 124 Street)

CHARLIE CRITTENDEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Despite what the child-like title of *Hockey Stories for Boys* may lead you to believe, actor Steve Pirot regrettably admits that "we don't have any puppets. No clowns."

Although your interest is likely in danger of waning, don't rush to judge *Hockey Stories for Boys*. The play is a road-trip story involving a '70s station wagon, marijuana, and two rock-bottom friends on a trek across Canada.

One of them, Neil, has found the original deed to the Stanley Cup and wants to claim it. The other, Darcy, has to move some pot to Toronto and needs a ride. The stage is set for a rather strange journey.

Their car has an eight-track and a heater that don't work at the same time, and as Pirot puts it, "you can't rely on Neil Young to keep you warm."

To pass the time, the two friends take turns reading from the book they discovered the Stanley Cup's deed within, called *Hockey Stories for Boys*. Through simply reading these tales of hockey greats, the play deals with

issues of Canadian identity. Pirot sees the meaning of the play as something that goes far beyond sports fiction.

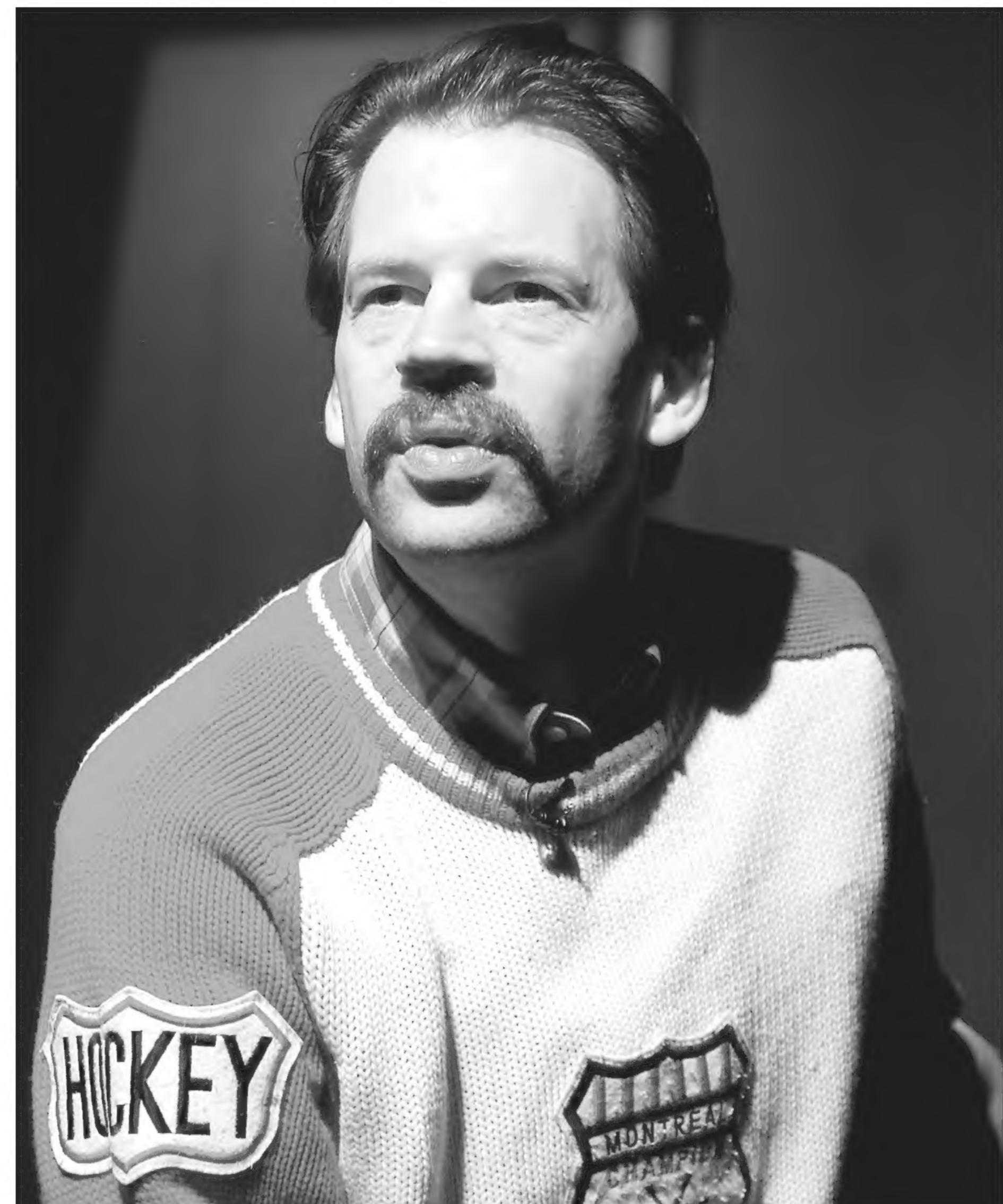
"This is not just about hockey; this is about our culture," he explains. "We've become so lazy as storytellers, [giving it all] over to television. If we don't know how to tell the stories, then we don't know how to own the stories, and then we don't know how to own our culture."

His words seem especially relevant considering the amount of American influence in Canadian media and sports. Other messages come across in the play and, while told in jokes, represent other parts of Canadian culture—namely, the parts based around a dislike for Toronto.

"One of the most important principles of this story is that Toronto sucks. It sucks hard," Pirot passionately explains. "The only thing that sucks more than Toronto is the Maple Leafs."

As the two friends journey to whatever conclusion awaits them in the big city, the humour of two losers adventuring together will hopefully balance out the show's deeper themes about Canada. And to Pirot and many others, the older tales retold during the course of *Hockey Stories* are a vast improvement to the only hockey story going on during the 2005 strike: that of rich players arguing with even richer team owners.

So, in wanting to draw the "atypical faces," and in focusing their show around hockey—even going so far as to order the three acts like hockey periods—*Hockey Stories for Boys* aims to be both meaningful and funny. And despite the lack of puppets, it just might.



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

FIVE-MINUTE MINOR FOR MOUSTACHE Steve Pirot explores our love of Hockey in *Hockey Stories*.

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featured album

Kamera
Resurrection
Nettwerk

GARY ALLEN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

It's easy to be envious of the Swedish. It seems as though every Benny, Bjorn, and Agnetha is born with music on the mind and an A&R man awaiting them in the delivery room. It's from this fertile land of pop mythology that Kamera spring, looking to take on the world with a mix of '80s-inspired music, fashion, and hair.

On *Resurrection*, their sophomore album that follows the loss of two band members and a major label contract with Sony, Kamera look to segue from modest success at home

to cinching the Holy Grail: breaking America and its record-buying masses.

To be fair, *Resurrection* is very listenable; it's a good pop-rock album. But therein lies the problem: *Resurrection* is never great. Kamera attempt to walk a line between the rock and pop genres that are so prolific in their native Stockholm, but capture neither the raw essence of the former or the guilty fun of the latter. *Resurrection* also lacks the immediacy that defines great pop

music—the kind that attacks your ears and changes your world, even if only for a few listens.

The high points of the album come back to back: "Fragile" finally manages to harness some of Kamera's energy with a pulsing synth beat and driving guitar riffs, and "I'm Gonna Be Your Lover" adds a sweeping string section to the mix that elevates the song above the rest of the slower fare.

Kamera made a name for themselves playing to sold-out crowds across Sweden, and while *Resurrection* is well produced, one gets a sense that this is a band best enjoyed live. Being inspired by the '80s might be a fun gimmick, but sometimes you can't help but feel that you've heard it all before.

To listen to samples from Kamera's *Resurrection*, go to www.thegatewayonline.ca and click on the editors' playlist.

David Bowie has made the jump from flesh and blood to cartoon.

You too can make a jump—from writing for the *Gateway* to ace arts journalist.



album review

That 1 Guy
The Moon is Disgusting
Jezebel Records Inc

CHRIS NOVAK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In a world where sample-based hip hop and generic bands like Nickelback dominate the airwaves, it's rare to hear something that is truly unique. For all of you that are bored with mediocrity, That 1 Guy has come to the rescue.

This one-man band is the brainchild of jazz bassist Mike Silverman and is probably different than anything you have ever heard. Frustrated with the limitations of his instrument, Silverman set out to invent something that could reproduce all the sounds in

his head. The resulting instrument is the Magic Pipe, a system of electronically wired metal pipes with one bass string running along it and featuring drums attached to foot pedals and a nearby musical saw.

The only way to truly visualize the Magic Pipe is to watch it being played (seriously, look it up on YouTube), but essentially, it's played like a hybrid of tribal percussion instruments and slide guitar.

The Moon is Disgusting is his second album and, with its funky,

industrial grooves and frenetic percussion, defies classification.

The album's just as bizarre in vocals as it is in every other aspect: Silverman's gravelly baritone sounds like Isaac Brock at his most spastic, and the recurring lyrical themes are tropical fruit and a moon made of cheese. But despite this ingenuity, sometimes *The Moon is Disgusting* just gets too weird. To paraphrase a line from the surprisingly great track "Buttmachine": "Just because it's modern doesn't mean it sounds good."

Some tracks, such as the 14-minute psychedelic closer "Rainbow," are too creative for their own good, but hey, it's always better to try something interesting and fail than to be generic and mediocre.

Silverman's boundless creativity creates a fun, zany album that, overall, is both refreshing and invigorating.

All it takes is a little trip up to 3-04 SUB on any given Thursday at 5. Except this Thursday, because nobody will be there.



album review

Kristilyn Robertson
The Bee Tree
Independent

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

It's hard to know what to expect when an artist sends a MySpace-style headshot along with her album. My first assumption was that she isn't actually very good and was trying to compensate by saying "Look how pretty I am!" In the case of Kristilyn Robertson, however, the picture was entirely unnecessary: she's certainly

not a singer/songwriter that needs to fall back on her looks, as cute as they may be. By the second track of her album, "Little Earth," you'll already be blown away by her delicate, playful, and beautiful handling of the piano and vocals.

Her lyrics and music are creative and whimsical in a manner that

would remind some of the band Eisley, without being a copycat. One might also be tempted to measure her against pop singer-songwriters like Vanessa Carlton, until you realize you can't because Robertson is better than that. Songs like "Your Lovely Bones" just tip the scale in Kristilyn's favour, exhibiting her artful lyrics and lovely vocals in a manner that should make everyone stop and notice.

Overall, *The Bee Tree* is an album that you just can't sing enough praise about. It will take over your brain for a time and leave the goal of seeing Kristilyn Robertson live very high on your priority list. *The Bee Tree* leaves you wanting more in all the best ways.

gravelly, and similar to each other, with minimal lyrics and grinding guitar solos.

A look at the album art reveals far more grey hair than any rock album should feature, but hey—these old guys are living out their dreams.

They've passed their prime (that is, assuming they ever had a prime), but they're giving it a shot. And after all, at least they have an album to show their kids, even if it's mediocre.

With generic metal motifs such as "Thunder on the Mountain" and "Grim Reaper," Thunderwood may not inspire a following of their own, but they showcase a pure respect for those before them and do a decent enough job trying to keep glam rock alive.



album review

Thunderwood
Turn It Up
Thunderwood Records

SARAH SCOTT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

You know that old joke that you've heard one too many times? The one that your dad still finds funny, but every time you hear it, it makes you gag. That's sort of how I feel about '80s glam rock: it was a joke of an era that would best be forgotten. But here comes Calgary's Thunderwood, a band of old men that are trying to rock like it's 1986.

Thunderwood tread no new

ground on *Turn It Up*, and end up only redoing what's been done before—far better and by much more talented artists.

They do acknowledge the achievements of other old metal groups like Poison and Motley Crüe, and you really have to respect them for trying. But the tracks on *Turn It Up*, like "Sandman" and "The Legacy of Warrior" are rough,



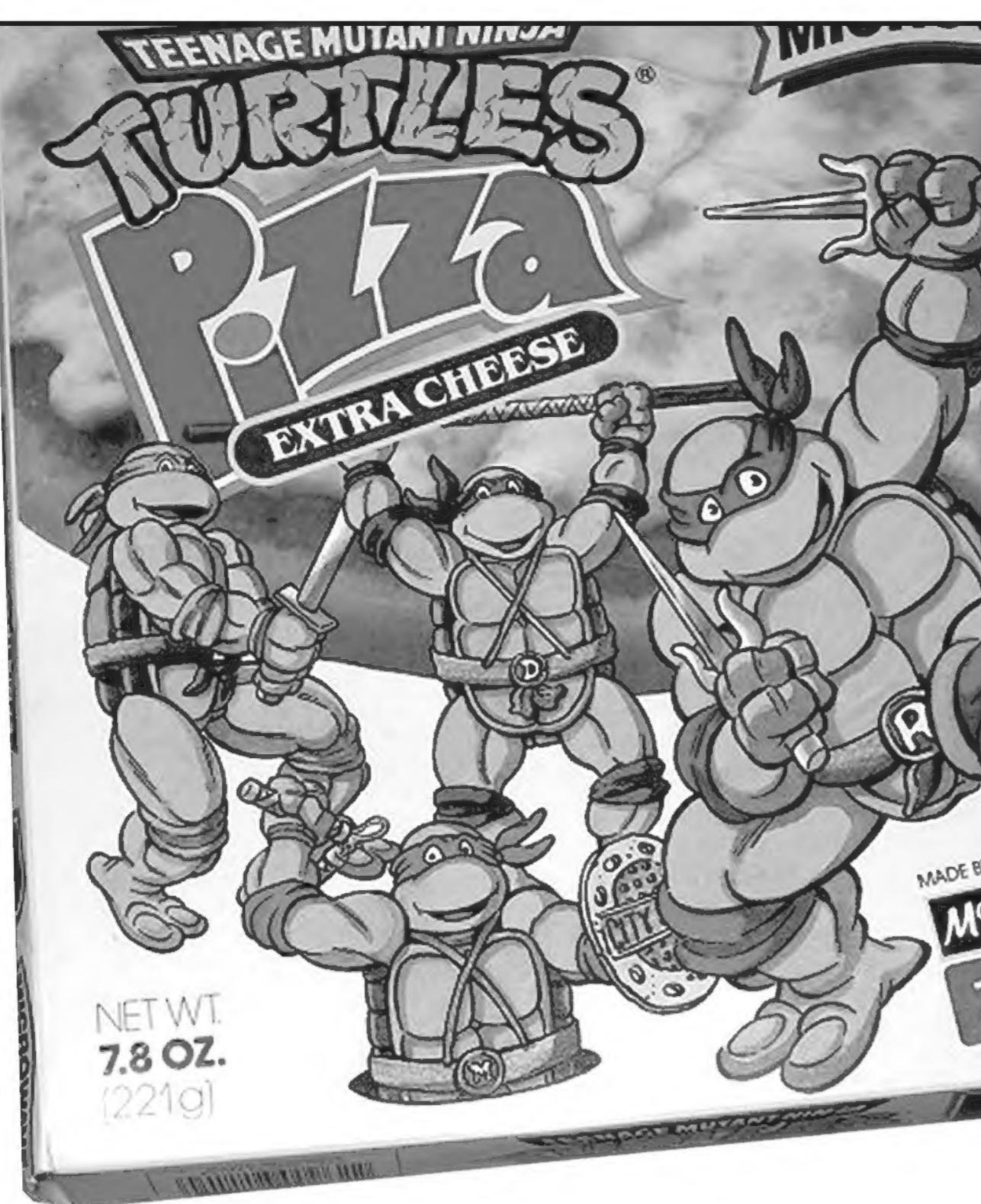
GATEWAY A&E
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A common misconception is that pie must contain a fruit. Did you know that in certain parts of the world, pizza is also considered a type of pie?

Did you also know that many real-life celebrities like the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are avid consumers of pizza pie?

If you'd like to learn more about the exciting world of pie, as well as a thing or two about reptilian art, be sure to attend the Gateway's Artists meetings, **Wednesdays at 4:30pm in 3-04 SUB.**

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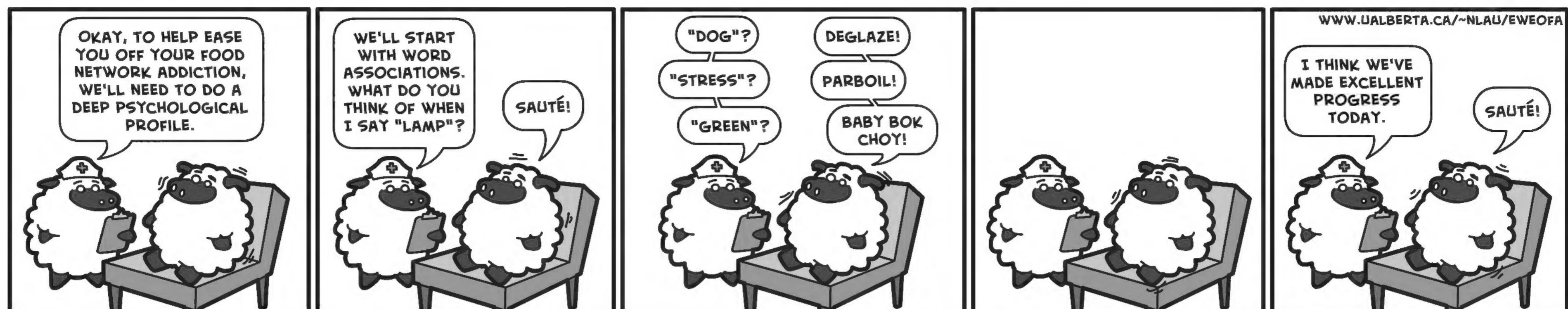
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EWE OF A by Norman Lau



SEXY GEEK by Ross Lockwood



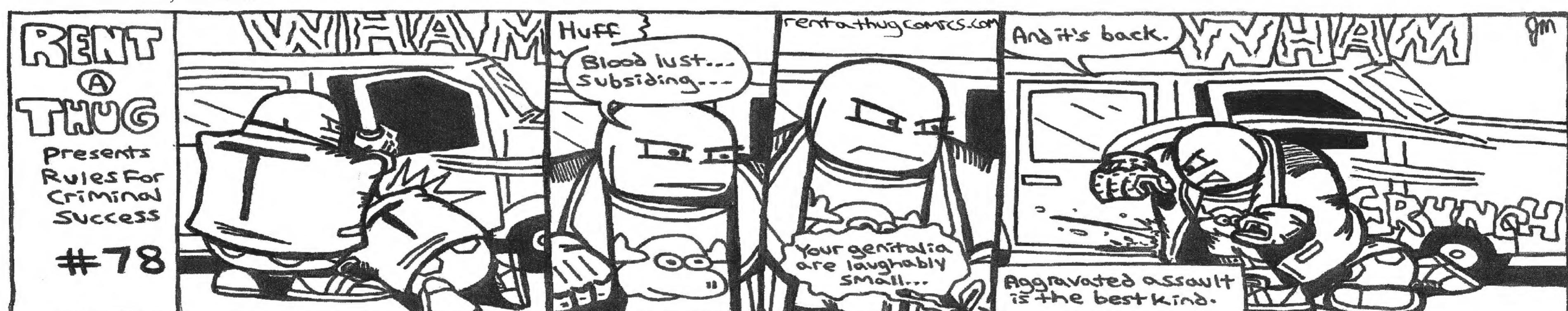
THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



COMICS AFTER MIDNIGHT by Conal Pierse



RENT-A-THUG by Jeff Martin



OVERHEARD AT THE U OF A by Matt Lui



THE GATEWAY

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Ten seats cut from Students' Council

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

With Students' Union elections looming on the horizon, the opportunity to hold a seat has been slightly reduced.

By passing a first reading of Bill 7 by a vote of 24 in favour, 13 against, and one abstention on 8 January, Students' Council has effectively reduced its size from 42 members to 32 for its next session. The bill also abolishes the Access Fund Committee, rolling its responsibilities into the Grant Allocation Committee.

"It's an improvement, and it will lead to a more engaged council, more

"It's an improvement, and it will lead to a more engaged council, more effective debate and, perhaps more importantly, a more streamlined committee system that will be a better use of Council's time."

STEVEN DOLLANSKY
SU VP (EXTERNAL)

effective debate, and, perhaps more importantly, a more streamlined committee system that will be a better use of Council's time," said SU Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky, who introduced the bill.

However, Bill 7 wasn't without controversy.

While it was originally meant to be introduced in December, it was pushed off of the agenda into January. Over the break, Dollansky reworked the bill, adding in two amendments, the first of which would have reduced Council from 42 to 28 seats and created two "super-faculties" that would have shared representation in the SU. These were planned to be a consolidation of Medicine/Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Law, as well as combining Native Studies and Open Studies.

Dollansky justified this move by claiming it would offer students more equal representation and increase the efficiency of Council.

PLEASE SEE COUNCIL • PAGE 3



HURTIN' ALBERTANS The University of Alberta's wrestlers hosted the Canada West competition this weekend and earned some fancy hardware for their efforts. TARA STIEGLITZ

Canadian campus bookstores band together to fight rising costs

U of A Bookstore and Students' Union are frontrunners in the struggle to lower academic material costs

KIRSTEN GORUK
News Staff

Tuition fees may be the favourite scapegoat of cash-strapped university students, but a newly launched campaign against federal regulations on textbooks is determined to see cheaper academic materials on campus bookstore shelves.

No matter how you look at it, books aren't cheap—just ask any student in line at the campus bookstore. As Bobby Samuel, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic), explained, the rising cost of books has always been an issue.

"It represents another barrier to affordability, but it's been our desire to try and reduce the costs of academic materials so that students are able to afford the undergraduate education without leaving school with too much debt," Samuel said.

In the past, the SU has worked alongside the U of A bookstore to reduce the cost to students, and to a certain degree, they have been successful at driving down book prices. But in the pursuit of greater results, the issue has been taken to the national level.

"We had to get other student associations, other bookstores [involved], and most importantly, publishers alerted us to where this issue needs to go and how it needs to change," Samuel explained.

The National Round Table on Academic Materials (NRAM) was held in Toronto this past November. The event was organized and executed by the U of A's campus bookstore and the SU. A total of 13 universities,

eight bookstores, and six publishers attended.

Although NRAM was successful in dissecting issues about book prices, speculation surrounding the regulations is nothing new.

On 27 November, 2007, four days after NRAM, Campus Stores Canada (CSC)—a national network that provides educational support and unity for institution-owned campus stores—launched an official campaign to change the federal regulations and reduce the price of books.

In the ten years since the last time regulations were reviewed, CSC and the U of A bookstore have pointed out serious problems with parallel importation, notably the Copyright Act and exclusive distribution rights.

"A Canadian publisher does two things in this country: publish books and distribute foreign books. They make their money both ways," said Chris Tabor, CSC spokesperson and Manager of Queen's University Bookstore.

Essentially, the distribution rights prohibit bookstores from importing used books and restrict their distributor choices to ones within Canada. This is why a student can check out Amazon.com and find their textbook for a lower price in US dollars than at the U of A bookstore.

The Copyright Act, which helps enforce distribution rights, also adds to the inflation of book prices.

"The act allows the Canadian distributor to add ten per cent to an American book or 15 per cent to a UK book that they import and redistribute," Tabor explained.



BOTTOM-SHELF BARGAINS Campus bookstores are on the side of students. MIKE OTTO

As long as the distributor remains within that percentage margin, campus bookstores have no choice but to deal with them. Todd Anderson, U of A Bookstore director, said that the act is unpopular among his staff and that he stands firmly behind the fight to change the regulations.

"The Copyright Act is potentially going to be one of the most damaging acts for student pocketbooks in the coming years," Anderson explained. "We hold our publishers accountable for what our students have to pay."

Since November, CSC has met with government representatives to discuss the problematic regulations. As the group explained, it was imperative

that the government understand that book price differential is the result of a poorly created copyright policy, and not the result of currency issues.

Tabor noted a welcomed response to the points raised and went on to detail his desired outcome, which he hopes will come to fruition by the end of January.

"Along with asking for the removal of GST, we've also asked for the removal of those specific parts of the act that contribute to inflated prices for the Canadian students," Tabor stated.

"It seems fundamentally unfair that a Canadian student should pay more for an identical book than their US or UK contemporaries."

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Where no class has gone before ...

After a four-month delay, Enterprise Square—the reclaimed Bay Building downtown—is officially open, and the Gateway photogs have the scoop on the new space.

PHOTO FEATURE, PAGE 10

 University of Alberta Career and Placement Services (CaPS)

 NAME: Daniel Calder

CaPS Client

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colophon

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contributors

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CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

FRIDAY NIGHT FORGETFULNESS

At 2:15am on 29 December, a female youth entered the Campus Security office looking for a ride home. The female was very intoxicated and couldn't remember where she had been, what she had been drinking, or where she lived. Further checks revealed that the female had been reported as missing from a group home. She was subsequently returned to the care of the Child Welfare Crisis Unit.

GET SOME NEW MATERIAL

On 31 December at 9:15am, a male was reported to be acting suspiciously in HUB Mall. CSS members attended and found the male, who identified himself under an alias. Officers recognized that he had previously trespassed under that alias and he was directed off campus. Further investigation lead to the discovery of the male's true identity as well as several other aliases. The male had also been previously trespassed from the U of A under his true identity.

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THAT...

On 3 January at 1:30am, a vehicle was observed by a CSS peace officer to be driving suspiciously through campus. The vehicle stopped, at which time the passenger ran from the vehicle. The driver was stopped and discovered to be driving without a license; the license plate on the vehicle was also determined to be stolen. The driver was then arrested, and the passenger was found a short time later and also arrested. The driver was issued

several traffic violation tickets, and both he and the passenger were subsequently turned over to the EPS for possession of stolen property.

NOT-SO-HIDDEN FEES

On 4 January at 12:30am, a vehicle with three male passengers was stopped by 5-0 officers for numerous traffic violations. The driver was identified and found to have a conditional release for trafficking drugs with a condition not to be in possession of any cell phones. An officer observed the driver in possession of a cell phone and contacted the EPS. The driver was issued several traffic violation tickets and turned over to the EPS, who charged him with violation of his recognizance conditions. The driver's vehicle was towed for not having insurance.

THE FIRST RULE OF FIGHT CLUB IS STAY OFF CAMPUS

At 5:45pm on 5 January, Campus Security received a report that a male was causing a disturbance in the HUB transit station by trying to pick fights with people as they walked by him. Both CSS and ETS peace officers attended. The male had been previously dealt with by both agencies on several occasions and was well known to officers. The male was subsequently charged with being intoxicated in a public place.

S'NO ANGEL

At 12:10am on 6 January, campus security received a report of an extremely intoxicated male who had passed out in the snow after leaving Lister Hall. The male, who wasn't a resident of Lister, had fallen in the snow wearing only jeans and a T-shirt, and was unable to walk or talk. Peace officers transported the male to the U of A Hospital where he was treated for alcohol poisoning.



MONICA LEON-QUINTERO

CONCRETE CRUSERS A group of engineering students run an initial test of their concrete sled on Saturday. Teams will be heading to Sherbrooke, Quebec at the end of month to compete in the Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race.

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by

Steve Smith and Ryan Heise

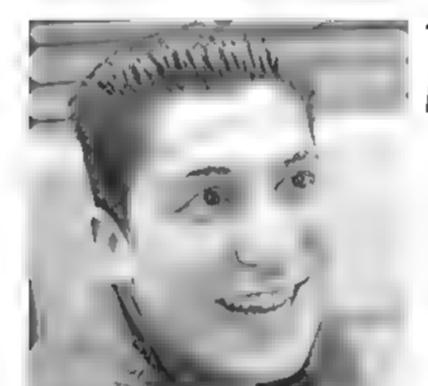
As you may be aware, a baby polar bear was recently born in Germany, replacing Knut, a former very popular baby polar bear who has since grown into a much less popular adolescent polar bear.

What animal would you like to breed or genetically engineer into a miniature version of itself?



Tracy Suen

Science III



Tony Dib

Engineering II



Steffanie Smith

Phys Ed III



Allison Bil

Science III

"I would turn a giant grizzly bear into a baby bear so you could keep it as a pet. Small enough to fit in your lap."

"Tiny monkeys. Monkeys are cool. I've always wanted a monkey. They're like miniature humans."

"A hippopotamus because I want a hippopotamus for Christmas."

"I would say a giraffe." [Isn't the whole point of a giraffe that it can reach really high?] "They're cute. Actually, they're not really that cute. I would say a tiger because cats don't have those stripes, and I like those stripes." [So you basically want a striped housecat?] "Yeah, but tiger-like. More fierce."

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Even after passing, seat reduction doesn't sit well with all councillors

COUNCIL ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"To me, it just doesn't make a lot of sense that a student in Native Studies who wants to go and vote in a Council election, their vote is equal weight to five students in the faculty of Science," he said.

However, the amendment was met with staunch opposition from most councillors.

"As a Pharmacy councillor, I don't feel I could adequately represent the needs of a [medical] student," said Jay Gauthier during the debate. "Sure it would be possible, but I think it's asking too much."

Ultimately, the amendment was defeated by a large majority of councillors—a move Dollansky disagreed with.

"Unfortunately, by failing the amendment, we sacrificed equality for efficiency, when we could have had both."

But Arts councillor Caitlin Schulz—who spoke against Bill 7 during debate—disagreed with Dollansky's sentiments, stating that she "thought [the amendment] was ridiculous."

"I agree with trying to be efficient and with equality, but I think we're getting that done right now with 42 people," Schulz said. "I think we could have tried to become more efficient with the quantity we had instead of trying to change everything all at once."

Still, Dollansky feels the ten-councillor reduction would make council more orderly.

"32 was a number I felt would still



MIKE OTTO

NOT DOWN WITH DOWNSIZING Schulz is opposed to shrinking Council.

maintain an equal [amount] of representation, although not quite as good as what we would have seen under a combined-faculty system, while still reducing size in Council enough to encourage more active participation and a more manageable atmosphere in chambers," he said.

Schulz, on the other hand, remains unconvinced that Bill 7 will solve the problems of efficiency and equality on Council.

"I don't think it's in the best interest of the student population; 32 council-

lors isn't enough representation," she explained. "We have 30 000 undergraduate students with only 32 people representing them; I just don't think it's a good idea."

Council last experienced a major size change in 2001 when it voted to remove the five-councillor-per-faculty limit but kept the same formula for calculating the number of councillors per faculty, which effectively increased the size of council by giving larger faculties more representation.

NEWS BRIEFS

U OF A CONTINUES EXPANSION OF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

With International Week starting on 28 January, the University is focused on establishing a strong position in the global community, and according to Barry Tonge, director of Education Abroad, the program at U of A International will play an integral part in that goal.

Throughout the last ten years, International Education Abroad has seen a dramatic expansion of its programs. Study opportunities are currently available in about 45 different countries, and Tonge predicts that the number will increase to more than 50 within the next two years.

"We maintain regular programs on every continent except the Antarctic—and we're working on that," he said. "The Canadian Circumpolar Institute is looking at a program that would take a group on a ship down to the Antarctic to do a field experience. [After we] plant our flag in the Antarctic, we will actually have programs on all continents."

But setting up so many programs abroad is no easy task. It takes careful consideration to balance quality education, safety concerns, U of A interests, student interests, and the constantly changing state of foreign affairs, Tonge explained.

"We consistently have to contemporize the program to reflect those things," he said, adding both the director and participating students feel that an opportunity to study abroad is worth the hard work.

Motria Savaryn, a fourth-year economics major and German minor, studied in Germany and Italy last year. She said she has no regrets about her decision to study abroad, despite how challenging such programs can be for both

the University and individual students.

"It does take work, and for some people, it's difficult to be going away for the first time," she said. "It depends on your program in the sense of whether it's easy or hard to get credit. But in the sense of an experience or for professional purposes, I don't think you can say anything bad about it."

Martin Gallego, an engineering grad student here from Spain, agreed. He said that coming into contact with different cultures and different school systems is valuable because "you can have different experiences and compare and make your own idea about which is the best."

All of this increasing support for international schooling is a clear sign of how attitudes in postsecondary education are changing, according to Tonge.

"In the old days, it was a certain type of liberal arts student who took a junior year abroad, but now we see some of the biggest take-up is actually engineering, business students, and they recognize very concrete results," he said.

"Employers and CEOs like to recruit and employ people with international experience because they bring these critical competencies and skills that a student who stays for four years at the U of A will simply not have."

—Sunny Chan, News Writer

U OF A CONSIDERS IMPLEMENTING EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEMS

Despite ongoing discussions, the University of Alberta has yet to decide on the best way to warn students of an imposing danger on campus.

On the heels of the Dawson College and Virginia Tech shootings, some schools, such as the University of British Columbia and the University of Calgary, had already implemented emergency warning systems. However, the U of A has yet to develop a comprehensive strategy, and is currently working on a com-

bined study with Simon Fraser University and the University of New Brunswick to evaluate possible warning systems.

According to University of Alberta communications professor Gordon Gow, the University is using a "wise strategy" by researching possibilities before implicating one. Gow's role in the effort is two-fold: as a researcher and as part of the Emergency Communications System Work Group.

Text messaging has been considered as one possibility according to Gow; however, he said it poses many logistical problems, such as potential network congestion, keeping databases up to date, and high administrative costs. He also suggested that perhaps a low tech solution such as public address systems and sign boards would be best.

U of A Students' Union Vice-President (Student Life) Chris Le explained that this is more than just an issue of last year's shooting.

"Even before I had come into office there had been talks about making sure that we had an emergency response [system for] different crises," he said. "The University has their mind on making sure they can be as proactive as possible."

However, before the University makes any major decisions, Gow stressed that it needs to determine the impact that such a system would have on the campus community, explaining that there would be continued studies on the subject and perhaps even student surveys distributed.

Le agreed that any possible system will require more research before it can best serve students.

"We pay our tuition expecting that get the most valued [university experience]," he said. "We want it to be something that is efficient, that will be reliable, that will always work, [and] that we can trust."

—Megan Kingdon, News Writer

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Geography linked to obesity

University of Alberta researchers find that the ratio of fast food restaurants in certain cities is linked to local obesity rates

TOM WAGNER
News Staff

A recent study by University of Alberta economics professor Sean Cash shows a strong connection between the number of fast food restaurants in Canadian cities and the incidence of obesity in each.

The study looked at data from Statistics Canada, as well as the density per 10 000 people of the top ten fast food chains, including McDonalds, Burger King, and Tim Hortons, and attempted to determine whether the availability of fast food affected the average weight of Canadians.

The answer, as it turns out, was hardly a surprise.

"On average, even after controlling for differences [between cities], one more fast food restaurant per 10 000 people was associated with 3.3 per cent more obesity in a city," Cash explained. "For the most part, the cities with more of these fast food restaurants had higher obesity; the cities with fewer had less."

However, Cash was quick to point out that the data should be interpreted as simply one

indicator of factors relating to obesity, for instance lifestyle, and not as a direct cause. He stressed that a city's average obesity is also linked to things such as commute time, climate, and average income, which the study also took into consideration.

As one example, the study looked at the availability of coffee shops in different cities as an indicator of the lifestyle and activities of the population.

"We actually found that coffee shops had a significant negative relationship with the incidence of obesity," he explained.

Moreover, there were some cities that did not fit in with the trend of more fast food restaurants equalling bigger waistlines. Halifax, for example, had a relatively high number of fast food restaurants and one of the lowest instances of obesity in the country.

Still, Cash still feels that the study's findings are relevant and important.

"I do think [the study] indicates that the types of things, the types of businesses and amenities we have in our cities, may influence some of the health outcomes we care about," he said.

Researchers find link between low birth weights and adult depression

RACHEL HENDRICKS
News Writer

The odds of developing depression or anxiety as an adult may be significantly increased even prior to birth, according to a study led by Ian Colman, assistant professor in the University of Alberta's School of Public Health.

The study, published in the December 2007 issue of *Biological Psychiatry*, found that individuals with low birth weights were more likely to become depressed or anxious as adults.

"This [study] shows that prenatal conditions have long-term effects on the developing fetus," Colman said.

Colman worked with researchers at the University of Cambridge and University College London to discover the correlation between birth weight and mental disorders. The research subjects were all members of the Medical Research Council National Survey of Health and Development, a survey that has monitored symptoms of mental disorder in over 5000 Britons born in 1946.

"We [...] found that babies who were smaller were more likely to be depressed or anxious

later on," Colman said.

Colman further explained why low birth weight may be significant.

"There is biological theory that suggests that when pregnant mothers become stressed [...] there's less blood flow to the uterus, so the babies aren't getting nutrients, and they end up smaller."

"[Also,] stress hormones like cortisol are passing through the placenta, and they could influence the developing baby's brain and permanently alter the stress response in that baby for the rest of its life. So when that baby grows up and is faced with stressful life events, they're more likely to become depressed or anxious."

Research that investigates prenatal conditions leads back to that long-standing debate of nature versus nurture.

"I think that what this points to is that nature is an important part of our mental health, and [for] people who suffer from depression and anxiety, this is further evidence that they might be biologically different," Colman said. "But that doesn't suggest that the environment isn't an important factor."

"This research supports the theory where there's an interaction between nature and nurture."

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Student activist group declares war on UBC administration

BRANDON ADAMS

The *Ubyssey*
(University of British Columbia)

VANCOUVER (CUP)—A group referring to itself as the “Wreath Underground” has declared war on the University of British Columbia administration and vandalized several university buildings.

The group sent an email to the *Ubyssey*, the student-run newspaper at UBC, on 20 December, in which they claimed responsibility for several acts of vandalism on campus.

“We, the warriors of the Wreath Underground claim responsibility for the recent targeted acts of vandalism on campus,” reads the email.

The first of these attacks hit at the Old Administration Building where the Board of Governors and higher administration have their offices [...]. Our second target was the central building in the Ponderosa complex where the Board had its last significant meeting.”

Following the vandalism, the Old Administration Building had several boarded-up windows. Windows at the rear of the Ponderosa complex were also peppered with over a dozen

golf-ball-sized holes.

The group pointed to a lack of student consultation about campus development projects as one of its primary motivations.

“We signed petitions. They were trashed. We laid grass and built ourselves a paradise. It was paved over and SUVs stand on Trek [Park’s] grave,” the email reads.

“Trek Park” is an independent green-space project established by students at UBC to protest a nearby underground extension of the bus loop.

“We put on a festival and invited President Fucker but he never showed. And we tried to play their game. We let them suck us into their process. We went to their consultation sessions. We sat and we waited [for] our turn to speak. It never came.”

The email’s authors further demand that the administration “refinance,” “reconsult,” and “rezone.”

The notice closes by saying: “we will push these fuckers until they concede every inch. This is our declaration of war, declared here in public.”

Trek Park organizers Stefanie Ratjen, Jasmine Ramze-Rezaee, and Nathan Crompton said that they didn’t know

who was involved in the vandalism, but they agreed with the group’s demands, if not their methods.

“The ‘refinance’, ‘reconsult’, and ‘rezone’ is something that the Trek Park protesters have been advocating for some time. The rhetoric used is a bit stronger,” Ratjen said.

Crompton said that the attacks should be taken in context, arguing that the University was the first aggressor when it demolished the student-built Trek Park.

“The University, in its own way, has kind of launched into a type of war against the park in destroying [it],” Crompton said. “I hope that if this is at all depicted as a form of violence or something, that it’s done in the context of the University’s own aggressive bulldozing of the park.”

Staff Sergeant Kevin Kenna of the UBC RCMP detachment said that the incidents were currently being investigated.

“We’re investigating this, and we intend to follow up as far as we can,” Kenna said. “Currently, we don’t have any suspects; however, if anybody out there in the general public has any information, we’d appreciate hearing from them.”

Students want gay-blood ban lifted

Canadian Blood Services says donor criteria based on science, not prejudice

KATIE HYSLOP

The *Muse*
(Memorial University of Newfoundland)

ST JOHN’S (CUP)—The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has spoken out against Canadian Blood Services’ (CBS) Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) policy, which bans men who have engaged in sexual intercourse with other men since 1977 from donating blood.

“This is a very discriminatory policy, and we are obviously not in favour of it,” said Stella Magalios, director of campaigns for Memorial University of Newfoundland’s Students’ Union.

“The fact is it’s unfair to discriminate based on someone’s personal life choice when it doesn’t necessarily indicate whether they have AIDS or not,” she said, noting that while homosexuality isn’t a choice, having sex is.

However, CBS maintains that their MSM policy isn’t meant to be discriminatory, and is simply an extra precaution to ensure clean blood.

“The basic premise for the deferral criteria that [CBS] has for men who have had sex with other men is that the prevalence and the incidence of HIV is much higher in males who have had sex with other males than in individuals who are having exclusively heterosexual sex,” said Paul McGrath, the Newfoundland and Labrador media representative for CBS.

McGrath references a study released by the Public Health Agency in December 2006 that found 39.6 per cent of positive HIV tests fall under the MSM category—the highest percentage of any group, with intravenous drug users following at 19.3 per cent of HIV infections.

Even though all donated blood is tested for HIV/AIDS, McGrath said that it is dangerous to rely on those tests alone.

“The existing test that we have for

“Straight couples still engage in anal sex, still engage in oral sex, still use sex toys, and infections can be transmitted any of those ways because that would be what they consider high-risk behaviour.”

BETHANY BARRETT
DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL ISSUES
LGBT STUDENTS MEMORIAL

“Straight couples still engage in anal sex, still engage in oral sex, still use sex toys, and infections can be transmitted any of those ways because that would be what they consider high-risk behaviour,” said Bethany Barrett, director of internal issues for Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, and Transgendered Students at Memorial.

“And unfortunately, that behaviour is typically associated with gay men and lesbian women.”

Canada isn’t the only country with a lifetime-ban MSM policy: The US, the UK, France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and Hong Kong also have a lifetime ban.

Some countries, meanwhile, including Hungary, New Zealand, and

Argentina, have shortened their ban lengths to five or ten years.

Italy is the only known country whose MSM policy is based on the riskier behaviour, such as promiscuity and unprotected sex. It’s this kind of policy that St John’s Pride Committee Chair Mark Hanlon would like to see implemented in Canada.

“I think [a policy] that’s actually more universal ... would ask any individual what is their sexual behaviour, whether they’ve had unprotected sexual intercourse with anybody, whether it’s a man or a woman, then that individual should be flagged as a high-risk individual,” Hanlon said.

Blood drives have been banned from the student centre at McGill University, and Barrett hasn’t ruled out such an action from LBGT-MUN.

“As of this point, I don’t know if we have any plans to protest it, and I’m not sure if we will because I have to talk to my volunteers first and just see what they feel about the subject,” Hanlon said. She also added that she doesn’t donate blood herself, partly for medical reasons and partly out of protest.

But Magalios doesn’t think that’s the best course of action for students to follow.

“Obviously donating blood is a very good thing to do, and in fact, the largest group of people that are donating right now are students,” she said.

CBS’s policies are controlled by Health Canada, which also recently announced the banning of organ donation from men who have had sex with men in the past five years.

McGrath says that though Health Canada is in talks with both the CFS and Egale Canada (an activist group for lesbians, gays, and transgendered Canadians) to review the policy, change will not be swift.

“This is something that is not going away today; it’s not going away tomorrow; it’s something that’s going to be on our radar screen for quite a long time.”

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OPINION

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Web-savviness not PCs' domain

COULD STELMACH HAVE HANDLED IT ANY WORSE?

I'm not talking about the First Ministers' Meeting, his frequent flyer miles, or speculation about the impending provincial election—though I'm sure Stelmach would have been more than happy to. Late last week, all anyone wanted to discuss with the Premier was the website that bears his name, but which (as it turns out) was already snapped up by the U of A's own Dave Cournoyer—for a mere \$14—some nine months ago.

The war of words between Stelmach's spokesflaks and the somewhat bemused former SU executive was animated, if uninformed. The more the provincial PCs and their legion of Liberal-haters stumbled over each other to decry the injustice of Cournoyer's prank, the deeper a hole they dug—and the more out of touch with reality they betrayed themselves to be.

As with most issues in Alberta politics, this has proven to be quite divisive. Only instead of the usual Tory/Grit dichotomy, it's more along the lines of people who've heard of the Internet versus those who haven't. The truth is that Cournoyer, while mischievous, hasn't done anything legally wrong, and now one can only hope that he calls the bluff of Stelmach's legal team—not only for our further amusement, but because the legal precedent on this matter still needs to be set.

Praise for Cournoyer's antics (or, at least a few tsk-tisks for those of the Premier) has come from some of the unlikeliest of sources, including the ultra-right-wing Ezra Levant.

Other more amusing—if less coherent—sound-bites have come from the right as well. Edmonton Sun columnist Neil Waugh waxed poetic about "a teeny, tiny Grit" who, as it turns out, "isn't some obscure fat frat boy with a sticky-up haircut."

Meanwhile, the cease and desist letter from Stelmach's law firm implores Cournoyer to "govern [himself] accordingly," and Stelmach himself, apparently caught off guard, quipped to reporters, "you know, I'm from the school that your name is your name [...] which, you know, mom and dad gave to me for free." This nonsensical Bush-ism only further underscores Steady Eddie's lack of understanding in this matter and why he should have opted to resolve the situation quietly instead of taking a run at what has proven to be a much more agile opponent than he was counting on.

It's also foolish to suggest that Cournoyer was acting on behalf of the provincial Liberal party, for whom he was until recently employed as communications coordinator. While the Liberals will undoubtedly come out having scored some points in this little shooting match, the fact that one petty act of cyber-vandalism has done more to send the normally unshakeable PCs running for cover than years of the Liberals' huffing and puffing tells us as much about the relevance of the official opposition party as it does about Cournoyer's own savviness.

The dust seems to have settled somewhat for now, not because Cournoyer has given in, but likely because Stelmach and company are slowly, quietly starting to realize that they don't have much of an argument. In other words, the prank worked, and Stelmach has nothing left to do but learn from his error-by-omission, as well as (perhaps more importantly) the embarrassing series of PR gaffes that ensued. That, and snap up every URL from edstelmach.cc to steadyeddie.net before it's too late.

ADAM GAUMONT
Editor-in-Chief

Royalty gets arrested

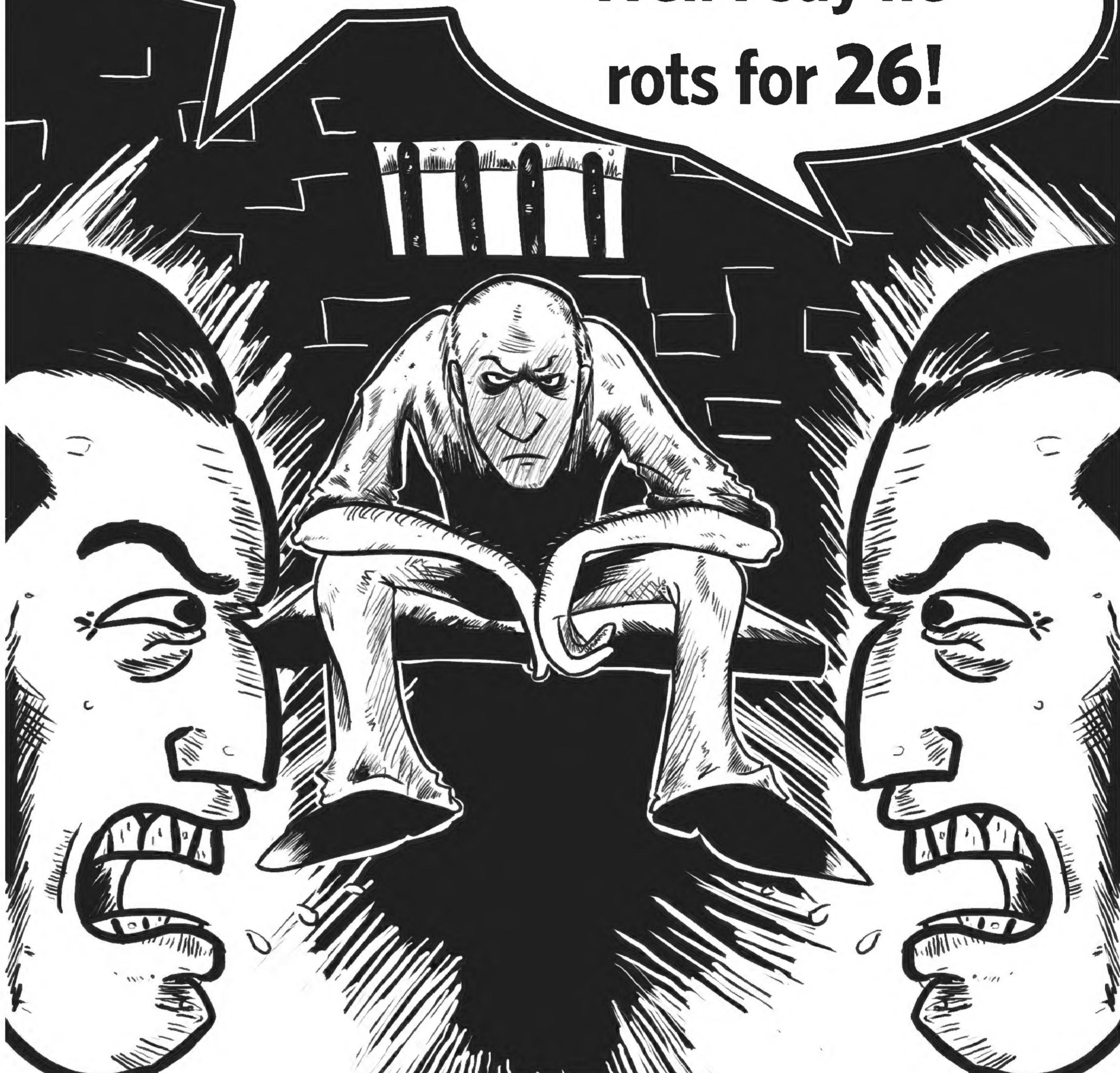
AFTER THREE YEARS OF ANGRILY SHAKING THEIR fists at the border, the US has finally managed to arrest Canada's Prince of Pot, Marc Emery—that is, assuming that the Canadian government agrees to the plea bargain he signed. But once Emery is safely behind bars, they can sleep sound knowing that no longer will college kids have the means to grow evil marijuana plants in their dorm room closets.

Congratulations, boys. This here's a silver-lining on the shit storm you call the "war on drugs."

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor

I say he rots for 6 counts of murder!

Well I say he rots for 26!



LETTERS

Gateway relies on your improvised responses

Biweekly, the Gateway selectively sweeps four Streeters at random to comment on a question. Thus, it's crucial that all individuals on campus be prepared with a charming, witty, and impassioned response (Re: "Streeters," every issue of the Gateway).

The Streeters column must be one of the most highly read sections—seeing how it's right at the front, shorter than a capsule A&E review, and less static than most news reports. Should the question posed to a Streeter prove to be more riveting, they need to take it upon themselves to bust out a unique response. In the absence of creative intervention, the entire Gateway issue could falter.

It's both necessary and intriguing to read a diversity of responses, so enchant us if you're selected. The outcome will be sensational, and it's possible that your response will be timely—"remember when that one Streeter said..."

How do you avoid getting stumped by Streeters' Block?

OSLO BELZILE
Via Email

Cybersquatting, unlike Council, isn't newsworthy

First off, Cournoyer: grow up and stopdomain squatting (Re: "Province threatens Cournoyer," 15 January). Your motive was either profit or, more likely, attention to your political ideas. But there are clean ways to achieve either.

Next, Gateway: get your facts straight. This isn't the province threatening anything, it's the law office representing Ed Stelmach threatening an action—and a completely justifiable one at that. Also, don't waste my DFU money reporting on domain squatting.

I don't want to see any sad faces over sand thrown in the playground. Sure, it would have been smart for Stelmach to have registered his name as a domain, but there are reasonable limits to free speech in a democracy. I don't know the case law to say if Dave is technically in the right or wrong, but

I can say that if I embarked on the same path, I would expect the same outcome.

And since I'm writing a letter, would the Gateway please report on something at Students' Council that occurs after question period. The meat and potatoes happens after the questions are dispensed with. Just one thing.

Please.

SCOTT NICOL
Business Councillor

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student ID number to be considered for publication. Any use of Internet slang will result in immediate deletion of said letter and copious cursing on my behalf.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Cluck, cluck, cluck, splat!

Editor's note: The following was in response to a prank during Engineering Week that saw five agriculture students toss five live chickens off the second floor balcony of CAB, thinking "they would flutter down."

Dear Editor,

They were just going to end up in the Colonel's hands anyway. Some mechanical engineers told us that these chickens [sic] were the right aerodynamic shape and there was great possibilities of Bourelli's force coming into effect here. Ee-aye-ee-aye-oh.

OLD MACK DONALD
21 January, 1986

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just particularly hilarious.

Cheap car carries high price for environment, impoverished



BRIAN GOULD

"Worldwide, cars are inextricably linked with social status. The company's website asks, 'which celebrity comes to your mind when you see this car?' After all, who cares if you can't scrape together enough to feed your family—at least you have a car to drive them around."

There's a new car set to hit the streets of India this year, and at \$2500CDN, it's poised to bring even more pollution and congestion to that country's already crowded cities. Branded the Tata Nano—an obnoxiously cute name to match the minute size of the car—and targeted at moped owners, it will inevitably result in more drivers and increased automobile dependence.

Back at home, facing the looming prospect of \$1.50-per-litre gas by the end of the year, there are sure to be cries against this new development—but frankly, we don't have that right.

Sure, India uses more than twice as much energy as Canada, but Canada uses 16.5 times more per capita. Over-population isn't the problem; it's over-consumption that's doing the real damage. India's consumption would be even lower if it weren't for the growing upper class consuming competitively with North Americans (growing, of course, at the expense of those less fortunate).

Yes, Tata's Nano is bad for the environment, but a nation that drives SUVs doesn't have the right to blame one that primarily drives mopeds for rising gasoline prices, fossil fuel depletion, and global warming—just like the binge eater at the buffet doesn't get to tell off skinny people when they

want more than a piece of celery. Congestion will increase, but even the inevitable road building projects and accelerated sprawl aren't so much the problem as the way in which they'll pay for all of it. Road tolls would simply be impossible, leaving the burden on the Indian taxpayer, who will suddenly find it more cost-effective to drive as well, which is when the automobile will claim yet another victim nation. Increased energy use combined with increased congestion are also the recipe for increased smog—a problem cities the size of Mumbai, Kolkata, and Dehli can hardly afford.

Overall, this car will be an environmental disaster, but no worse than the one we currently live in. It's time to look at ourselves for the real source of these environmental problems instead of pointing fingers. What actually worries me the most is the tagline the company is using to promote it: "The People's Car." As in: the car of the people. As in: if you want to be part of society, you need a car because that's what it's really all about here.

"If I had a four-wheeler, I would have better marriage prospects," says a villager in Tata's marketing literature. Whose fault is that perspective? Surely it couldn't be the western world that has incessantly broadcast automobile

dependence as a cultural value since India was still a colony.

Worldwide, cars are inextricably linked with social status. The company's website asks, "Which celebrity comes to your mind when you see this car?" After all, who cares if you can't scrape together enough to feed your family—at least you have a car to drive them around.

Three quarters of the Indian population lives on less than \$2 per day—*three quarters*. The \$2500 price point suddenly looks a little high. Equally troubling is the cost of gas—60 miles per gallon isn't enough for the 250 million Indians who couldn't fill the tank more than once every two months. Call it "The People's Car" if it helps you sleep at night, but this isn't going to break down caste barriers—it's going to create new ones.

It's true that the Tata Nano represents a safety improvement over a family clinging to a single motorcycle. There's certainly demand for such a car, but what about those who couldn't even afford a scooter? Maybe they're just supposed to suck it up and starve themselves and their families to get one so that they can finally fit in with the rest of "developing" India. After all, if a "People's Car" is the cost to participate in society, wouldn't you want one too?

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As part of our campaign for autonomy three years ago we promised you (students) that we would give back, not only with quality newspapers, but in the form of scholarships. And so: the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) is giving away three \$500 scholarships to reward continuing students for their creativity, writing ability and media savvy.

To enter, submit a resume and a 500 word essay on independent campus media by e-mail to biz@gateway.ualberta.ca or in hard copy form to the Gateway offices, marked to the attention of "Gateway Scholarship Committee". The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of essay radness, with extra-curricular and community involvement used as a tie-breaker.

To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a full-time continuing student with a GPA of at least 2.0, but can neither be a staffer of the Gateway (this includes volunteers), nor a member of the GSJS Board of Directors, nor a member of the GSJS Ombudsboard.

Applications will be due by noon on Monday, 28 January. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

THE GATEWAY

BEAR TRACKS

Winter Term 2008 Registration Deadline

The deadline for course changes using Bear Tracks is **Midnight, January 18, 2008**

Make sure you know...

- Your Campus Computing ID (CCID) and password—you need this information to access Bear Tracks. If you need help with your CCID please contact the Academic Information and Communication Technologies (AICT) office at www.ualberta.ca/HELP/
- No special consideration will be given if a student cannot add or delete a class by the deadline because they did not have their CCID and password.
- Classes closed to Web registration require Department consent/permission. You must submit your request to the Department well in advance of the deadline. Campus offices are not open after regular hours. Contact information can be found on the University's website www.ualberta.ca, under 'Faculties and Departments'.

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NO APPEALS for registration changes after the deadline will be considered.

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Throughout last year, tensions over the Iranian nuclear program dominated headlines. The US launched new allegations and condemnations against Iran on an almost daily basis, and the news networks got plenty of use out of their scary “evil Iran” graphics.

But despite so much attention being given to the issue, the majority of people are still unaware of what Dr Mohamed El Baradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, had to say: they have found no undeclared nuclear facilities in Iran nor any concrete evidence that their current nuclear program is being weaponized, and the IAEA is “moving forwards towards a position to declare Iran’s programs are exclusively for peaceful purposes.”

However, for some reason, his statements went largely unreported by mainstream media. In light of the constant bombardment of fear-mongering on the issue, it’s not surprising that 52 per cent of Americans told a recent Zogby poll that they would support a US military strike to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. Of course, if all Iran were to do is develop nuclear power plants for civilian use, then such an action would be a violation of international law, since the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (of which the US is technically in violation) permits Iran to have such facilities.

Why is Iran interested in pursuing nuclear energy? It was once argued that “introduction of nuclear power will both provide for the growing needs of Iran’s economy and free remaining oil reserves for export or conversion to petrochemicals,” a



SPECIAL REPORT

CONAL PIERSE

Iran not the unstable nuclear terrorists they’re made out to be

CODY
CIVIERO



“I don’t wish to portray Iran as a completely innocent victim that’s being bullied by the Wicked World Power of the West. I believe that narrow and simplistic worldviews on foreign policy are dangerous—which is exactly the manner in which we currently view Iran.”

statement that was uttered by none other than Henry Kissinger, secretary of state for president Ford. The US was strongly supportive of Iran’s nuclear program in the 1970s, but now they’re singing a different tune.

I don’t want anyone to get the impression that I’m summing up the situation as “Iran=good, US=bad.” I don’t wish to portray Iran as a completely innocent victim that’s being bullied by the Wicked World Power of the West. I believe that narrow and simplistic worldviews on foreign policy are dangerous—which is exactly the manner in which we currently view Iran.

Iran’s human rights records are very sketchy, and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has made statements that should rightfully be condemned. His alleged reference to “wiping Israel off the map” is still up to interpretation in context, but his description of the Holocaust as “a myth” is an astoundingly ignorant statement which could only come from someone filled with hate. At the same time, this certainly doesn’t warrant an invasion. All this suggests is that Ahmadinejad is a bit of a moron who likes to run his mouth—though he isn’t the only leader who fits that description.

My concern over this issue was heightened when the sentiment spread north of the border. This past Christmas, Defense Minister Peter McKay appeared in Kandahar and asserted that “we’re very concerned that weapons are coming from Iran; we’re very concerned that these weapons are going to the insurgents and are keeping this issue alive.” However, NATO’s second-in-

command in southern Afghanistan, Brigadier General Marquis Hainse, expressed skepticism and questioned as to where McKay got this information. Gary Sick, who served on the National Security Council under US presidents Ford, Carter, and Reagan, also cast doubt on McKay’s claims, stating, “It’s clear that Iran is not supporting the Taliban. They may be doing deals with warlord types in various places basically for their own strategic reasons. But they really despise the Taliban, and the Taliban despise them.” McKay has subsequently failed to provide evidence backing his accusations.

I’m pessimistic over what the future holds as far as Iran is concerned. Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, and Ron Paul are the only US presidential candidates actively supporting diplomacy with Iran, and they collectively have about as much of a chance of being elected as an inanimate carbon rod. From Clinton’s vote to declare the Iranian National Guard a “terrorist organization” to Giuliani’s blunt statement that he would strike Iran without congressional approval if they went nuclear (he then upped the ante by saying that Iran was “more dangerous than Iraq”), every mainstream candidate seems poised to kick some Iranian ass with little apparent reason.

The greatest problem with this issue is the level of ignorance the general populace currently has about Iran due to the shamefully one-sided coverage by the mainstream media. We all need to start questioning the stories we’re being fed and decide the truth as we see it, not how we’re told to view it.

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Is reopening Robert Pickton's trial going to be worth it?

We owe it to the victims to see him charged for all of his crimes



ELLIOT
GOODINE

point

On 9 January, BC Attorney General Wally Oppal announced that the Crown would be appealing the verdict in Robert William Pickton's trial. Despite having recently found Pickton guilty on six counts of second-degree murder, the prosecution now wants Pickton to be tried for 26 counts of first-degree. While these new endeavours may appear to be overambitious, they're absolutely necessary in terms of showing respect to the families and women affected by Pickton's acts.

Granted, the primary purpose of the justice system was served in Pickton's first trial, as he will never walk the streets again. He received the maximum sentence of six life sentences with no chance of parole for 25 years, which will be sufficient for locking up any murdering scumbag for the remainder of his days. But simply because we have a man behind bars doesn't mean that the justice system has finished the job.

The families of the women who were murdered want to see Pickton convicted of every count of murder for which he was charged. These people have been wronged by him and deserve to be acknowledged in his punishment process. Our justice system shouldn't only focus on rehabilitation and protecting society from psychopaths like Pickton; it should also be an outlet for exposing the truth to the loved ones of the victims.

Secondly, the original six verdicts, which found Pickton guilty of second-degree murder, ought to be looked at again. To call what Pickton did a non-premeditated act is ridiculous. Had he killed

one woman, a reasonable argument could be made that no forethought was involved. But when Pickton killed 26 people and used elaborate and grotesque methods to hide the evidence on his pig farm, it's absolutely illogical to consider any of these cases not to have been planned. Second-degree murder charges for Pickton trivialize what he did, making an evil man seem to be simply impulsive.

It's also especially important that all of the charges are seen in court because these women were involved in the sex trade, and to deny them attention in this fashion leaves one at a loss to say what the government is doing for women involved in prostitution. Besides not having enough programs to find these women meaningful work and education, the Harper government vocally opposes the safe injection sites in Vancouver, which have been safeguarding addicts and prostitutes from disease.

The families of the women who were murdered want to see that Pickton is convicted of every count of murder for which he was charged.

Had Pickton's victims not been prostitutes, there would be less hesitation to convict him further. Simply because these women were involved in unsavoury affairs doesn't mean they have less of a right to due process.

While one can't deny that further work in the legal system will be costly, this shouldn't be a factor that determines that the work isn't worth doing. Do we really want history to show that the Canadian legal system gave its most notorious serial killer a mere six second-degree murder charges?

Justice has been served; further deliberations are just superfluous



KELSEY
TANASIUK

counterpoint

The original verdict against Robert William Pickton saw justice served, and to think otherwise plays to the biblical desire of an eye for an eye—not due judicial process. He has been given the maximum sentence for crimes of this nature: that is, life in prison with no eligibility for parole until 25 years after his conviction. On top of all that, the chances of any parole board releasing him are next to nothing, so it's very safe to say that he'll see nothing but prison walls for the rest of his life.

The world knows that Pickton killed these women—just because a judge hasn't banged a gavel over it doesn't change that fact.

Still, some people just can't be satisfied. The Crown's motion for a new trial intended to charge Pickton with the additional 20 murders is both a huge and completely unnecessary act. The first trial alone spanned an entire year and cost BC taxpayers \$46 million dollars. Not to mention the additional (though undeniably necessary) price tag of \$70 million spent on the prior two-year investigation beforehand. Mind you, that was only to convict him of the killing six women; the time, money, and legal complexity involved in convicting him of 20 more murders would be astronomical.

Convicting him of additional murders will do nothing to increase his present sentence—and that's only if he's found guilty. For the first trial the Crown chose to charge him with the six strongest cases. It's one thing to base a court case around one or two shaky accusations, but to try to convince a jury to convict someone of 20 more murders is a tall order.

Overall, dragging this case on isn't what the public needs right now. Saving the evidence and reopening the trial if Pickton is ever foolish enough to apply for parole makes sense, but to open a second trial only a month after the first is closed would be ridiculous and over the top.

Some will argue that it's a matter of closure for the families and friends of the victims—that it's part of the healing process. But for the families of the six women Pickton was charged with murdering, it does nothing but reopen some very deep wounds. The loved ones of the other 20 need to take solace in the fact that this man will, in all likelihood, die behind bars.

The world knows that Pickton killed these women—just because a judge hasn't banged a gavel over it doesn't change that fact. Justice has been served, perhaps not to the fullest and most useless extent, but enough for the public's purposes.

If emotional healing is still an issue, there are ways to deal with loss that don't involve the courts. Support groups aren't that hard to come by, and there are plenty of families changed by this man's horrible acts. There must be others willing to talk, cry, and let go with fellow loved ones of the deceased.

Overall, putting Robert Pickton back on trial is a reckless decision that will do more harm than good. The victims' loved ones, and the nation's bank account, don't need this extra stress. The last thing anyone should want right now is to put Canada through the horrifying circus that is Pickton's trials again.

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